

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 9 is allowed. The Examiner also is thanked for indicating that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Based on the foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claims 1-2 , 4-8, and 10 to allowance.

### Rejection of Claims 1-2 , 4-8, and 10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,682 B2 to Cotteverte et al. ("Cotteverte"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Although Applicant believes that independent claim 1 is patentable as written, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the substance of claim 3 and claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2, 4-8, and 10 properly depend from amended claim 1 and are therefore also patentable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection to claims 1-2 , 4-8, and 10.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been properly accommodated and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

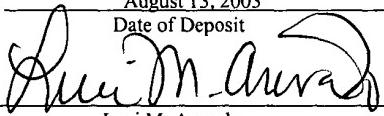
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Date: 8/13/03

  
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